BANCA GENERALE – SEDE DI MILANO

Mrs. S. J. Kirkwood
Wooster, Ohio
U. S. of America.

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BANCA GENERALE - SEDE DI MILANO

SOCIETÀ ANONIMA
Sedi: ROMA, MILANO, GENOVA

Capitale . . { nominale L. 50,000,000
versato » 25,000,000

TELEGRAMMI: GENERALBANK - MILANO

MILANO, 6 Thursday, May 9, 1889.

My Dear Wife; I am at this Bank drawing a little money, and while waiting on them I will improve the time by writing a little to You.

I got up pretty early this morning after a good night's rest, got some breakfast and started out to see the sights. I went to the cathedral. While on the way, a young american Naval officer, named Sears, from Pa., overtook me and asked me if I was going up on the tower of the cathedral. We went together, looked through the interior, and then went to the tower. As we went up from the roof, up the tower, we had fine views of the roof, looking down. It is a wonderful building. I cannot describe it in a letter. I will bring some photographs, and then try to tell you about it. We remained some time on the tower. When we came down, he went to get his breakfast. I am going out now to see Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper. I shall not run about much in Milan. While it is a beautiful and magnificent city, there is not much of special interest to be seen. While on the cathedral tower, we had very fine and extensive views of Milan and the surrounding Country. It is a beautiful plain, with the mountains in the distance. Mt. Blanc is visible when it is right clear, but there was too much fog near the horizon in that direction, for us to see it. The arcade - Vittorio Emanuele, is a remarkable structure.

I saw it lighted by electricity last night. The store windows made the finest display of any thing of the kind I have ever seen. This is a great centre of silk manufacture, and so they make a remarkably fine display of silk goods of all sorts. I wish you were here to help me select a few little things in the silk line. I am not certain yet when I shall leave here — either this afternoon or in the morning. Neither am I sure yet until I make some inquiries, whether I will go to Paris by way of Turin or Basle. I am inclined a little to the latter. I am anxious to get to Paris and London as soon as possible. I don't wish to make my time too short for England.

I must close now. Perhaps I may write a little more before mailing this. Your loving husband.

S. J. Kirkwood

Over

My Dear wife, It is now after eight o'clock in the evening, and I will add a little to this letter before going to bed.

I left Milan at 4 o'clock this afternoon and came to Como, reaching here about six. Como is at the head or foot of lake Como, I do not know which. It is an old looking town, and I believe there is considerable of it, but is straggles along in the valley between the mountains, so that you cannot see much of it at a time. The hotel I am stopping at — Post d'Italia, is but a few steps from the lake. From here we can see but a little of the lake, beyond it turns and is hidden by the mountains.

I expect to go up the lake in the morning on a little steamer, to Menaggio, and then cross a few miles by rail to a point on lake Lugano, and then down on another little steamer to the town of Lugano. I shall stay there over night, and then take a train in the morning for Lucerne and Basle, by the St. Gothard Tunnel.

I will reach Basle about 7 in the evening, and spend the Sabbath there. I will take as early a train as I can get on Monday morning from Basle for Paris.

I hope to morrow will be a pleasant day for riding on the lakes.

I enjoyed my day in Milan very much. I had a very good hotel — excellent in every way — and at very moderate rates. The day was pleasant, and Milan is worth seeing.

I went to see Leonardo Da Vinci's Last Supper. It is so abused that you can hardly tell how good it was. Still, it shows much better than I expected. Just a little in front and to one side, there stands a new large copy of it by some modern artist. It is an excellent copy and a good picture. I also saw the Triumphal Arch erected by Napoleon I to commemorate the completion of the Simplon road, I believe it was. It is a

beautiful monument of white marble, with ten bronze horses on top. It is in the form of an arch, much resembling that of Septimius Severus, at Rome. But the Cathedral of Milan is the great thing. It is indeed both beautiful and wonderful.

I hope to find some letters from you when I get to Paris. I ordered letters forwarded there from Rome and Florence.

I think I shall have to close now. I hope you are better before this. Remember me to all,

Your loving husband,

S. J. Kirkwood.